OCTOBER 15, 2004

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

The NLTA Provincial Executive Council met on October 15. This issue of Executive Notes is intended to provide a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at this meeting.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities
Administrative Staff provided the Provincial Executive Council with an update on the objectives, timelines and action updates for the Association's priorities. The five priorities are: negotiating a collective agreement; teacher accountability/assessment/professionalism; curriculum issues; quality of teachers' work life; and membership awareness.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Meeting with Minister of Education
The newly appointed Minister of Education, the Honourable Tom Hedderson, his Deputy Minister, Bruce Hollett, and Assistant Deputy Minister, Gerald Galway, met with the NLTA Provincial Executive to discuss various educational and teacher issues. The Minister briefly addressed the Provincial Executive and Executive had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues with the Minister and his officials. Various topics discussed included teacher workload issues, allocations for substitute teachers, teacher professional development, and class size.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director

CDLI - Mandate and Initiatives
A presentation was made to Provincial Executive by Wade Sheppard, Director of the Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI) on the initiatives that are currently underway for students throughout the province. Some of the initiatives through the Centre include V-class sessions, tutorials, guidance sections, web-based email for K-12 students, teachers, school staff, school volunteers, and school district office staff, and school web pages.

More information about CDLI can be found at www.cdli.ca or by contacting Alex Hickey, Coordinator, Virtual Teacher Centre.

Business from Standing Committees
TABLE OFFICERS

- The draft policy on Occupational Health and Safety was adopted as NLTA's policy as an employer. For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

- Further contact will be made with the newly appointed Executive Director of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association re possible resolutions to the NLSBA grievance concerning the duties of student assistants during a NAPE/CUPE job action. For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.
- Due to the election of President Fred Douglas as a CTF vice-president in July, Vice-President Kevin Foley will be named as NLTA's Director on the CTF Board of Directors for 2004-05. For further information contact Fred Douglas, President.
- The Association will contribute $1,000 to the Educational International Solidarity Fund for the families of teachers killed in Beslan, Russia. For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

- The Finance and Property Committee presented the Provincial Executive Council with information concerning the construction of the budgets for the Association for 2005-06 and 2006-07. The budgets will be constructed in coming months in consultation with Provincial Executive, Joint Council, and with input from NLTA staff. A draft budget will be prepared for presentation at the February meeting of Joint Council for comments and feedback. It will then be presented at BGM in March of 2005. For further information contact Edward Moore, Chair, Finance and Property Committee, or Jim Fox, NLTA Treasurer.

President's Report
The President reported to Provincial Executive on his activities since the last meeting in early June. Besides school visits and various meetings in his role as President, he has also attended the Education International World Conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil, CONTACT in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and various meetings as Vice-President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. He has met with the Minister of Education and Department officials re the NLTA workload study, school fees, and other teacher issues. He is also continuing with his visits to schools throughout the province.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President.

Committee on Early Career Teachers
A final report was provided to Provincial Executive by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Involvement of Early Career Teachers in the NLTA. The report contained general information about the work of the committee as well as a summary of recommendations on the involvement of early career teachers within the Association.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Bill Chaisson, Chair, Committee on Early Career Teachers.

Other Business

- The theme for Education Week 2005 will be "Food for Thought" and will encompass a wellness component. For further information contact Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.
- The NLTA will prepare and distribute an advisory to all teachers reminding them of the provisions in the Collective Agreement that are intended to put parameters around their workload. For further information contact Fred Douglas, President.

Discussion Topics
The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive for comment or further discussion: three-week pay period gap in 2006; replacement positions; school board budgeting; leave allocations; school development; and student assistant allocations.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President.

Next Meeting
The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for November 25 and will be followed by a Joint Council meeting on November 26 and 27.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

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